



# GARY TAUCHEN

State Representative • 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

(608) 266-3097  
FAX (608) 282-3606  
Toll-Free (888) 529-0006  
Rep.Tauchen@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Chairman Ott and members of the Assembly committee on Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs, thank you for taking the time to hear Assembly Bill 288 today.

The passage of Department of Commerce administrative rule, Comm 83.255 required a governmental unit to maintain an inventory of all Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems by October 1, 2011. Comm 83.255 had municipalities implementing a comprehensive maintenance program by October 1, 2013. These are important goals and passage of AB 288 should not be interpreted as undercutting the intent of the administrative rule.

During this economic recession Assembly Bill 288 simply delays the deadline for the inventory until October 1, 2019 and the deadline for the program implementation until October 1, 2021. This will provide flexibility to counties and home owners to plan and prepare for implementation of this rule.

I have heard from numerous constituents who simply can not afford the thousands of dollars a new septic system would cost. Providing additional time would help ease the economic burden and give our constituents ample opportunity to address their systems.

AB 288 does not change the policy on septic upgrades—it only delays the implementation to give counties more time to do the inspections and homeowners more time to install a new system if their system fails the county inspection.

I want to thank my fellow co-author Senator Galloway and my fellow cosponsors for their work on AB 288. I want to thank all of you for your time and consideration.





Wisconsin State Senator

**PAM GALLOWAY**

Senate District 29

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 288  
Assembly Committee on Rural Economic Development and  
Rural Affairs  
October 19, 2011**

Chairman Ott and members of the committee, thank you for taking the time to hear Assembly Bill 288 today. I apologize that I could not attend in person but I want to thank you for accepting my submitted testimony.

I want to provide a little history of why this bill is before the committee. The Department of Commerce's administrative rule, Comm 83.255, went into effect in July of 2000. This rule required a governmental unit to maintain an inventory of all Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems by October 1, 2011. In addition, municipalities also had to implement a comprehensive maintenance program by October 1, 2013. Last session, Assembly Bill 950 was signed into law giving homeowners two additional years to upgrade their septic systems.

Assembly Bill 288 delays the deadline for the inventory until October 1, 2019 and the deadline for the program implementation until October 1, 2021.

The same concerns that were raised by the authors of Assembly Bill 950 still exist today. The sponsors of this bill, including myself, are continuing to hear from constituents who are concerned that after they're required to go through an inspection and evaluation, that they may be forced to replace their system. They absolutely need more time to save money for these expensive systems, which can range anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per septic system.

Certainly in these challenging economic times, the majority of residents I represent simply cannot afford the added cost of replacing their septic system. Many of these people are on fixed incomes and need time to examine what options they have and plan for these changes. The bill does

not change the policy on septic upgrades—it only delays the implementation to give counties more time to do the inspections and homeowners more time to install a new system if their system fails the county inspection.

I want to thank all of you for your time and consideration. I want to acknowledge Representative Tauchen and my fellow cosponsors for their work on this legislation. My thanks again to the Chairman for holding this hearing.